Going from

Skilled Workers Get Jobs: Recruiting Women and Retaining ALL Students
To
Skilled Workers Get Jobs 2.0: Appalachian Impact
Issues for A-B Tech

- Low percentage of women in Technology and Engineering programs
- Retention of females was lower than retention of males

... we needed help
NSF New to ATE Grant

• 3 Years (April 2012-March 2015)
• $199,896
What Next
First Grant – and Going Forward

• Year 1: Focused on grant
• Year 2: Started looking at next steps
• Year 3: Applied for Project Grant
Initial Activities (for any grant)

- Read the RFP (twice)
- Does the RFP apply to your needs
- Get internal approvals
- Form your team
What Worked For Us

• Scope of the project
  • How could we expand (not just continue)
• NSF Community
• External reviewer (SCATE Inc.)
NSF ATE Project

• 3 Years (July 2015-June 2018)
• $898,198
Quick Look

• Expanded to other technology and engineering programs at A-B Tech
• Partnered with other colleges
• Added Learning Communities
Partner Colleges

• Blue Ridge (NC)
• Haywood (NC)
• Southwestern (NC)
• Tri-County (NC)
• Northeast State (TN)
• Virginia Highland (VA)
Activities:

Adaptation/Implementation of Successful Strategies at Partner Colleges
• Six Community Colleges and Multiple Public School Districts Across Three Southern Appalachian States (and via the NC Community College System Office)
• Gender Equity and Problem-Based Learning Training for Community College Instructors and In-service Teachers/Counselors
• Women in Technology Ambassador Program
• Marketing Material Customization
• Expertise Development through Professional Development and Membership in Professional Organizations

Broader Institutionalization of Successful Strategies at A-B Tech
• Gender Equity and Problem-Based Learning Training for Community College Instructors and In-service Teachers/Counselors
• Women in Technology Ambassador Program
• Expertise Development through Professional Development, Membership in Professional Organizations, and Expanded Individual Practice

Learning Community Proof of Concept at A-B Tech
• Deeper Integration of Gender Equity and Problem-Based Learning strategies into Community College Instructors’ Pedagogy and Classroom Practices
  • Group Reading with Discussion
  • Group Webinar/Guest Speaker with Discussion
  • Peer Review/Critique
  • Scholarly Activities

OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
• Increase the percentage of female students who enroll in the targeted technician preparation programs by 15% per year;
• Increase the fall-to-fall retention rate of female students in the targeted technician preparation programs to a level that equals or exceeds the retention rate of male students in the same targeted technician preparation programs;
• Improve the workplace skill attainment of the students enrolled in courses within the targeted technician preparation programs;
• Increase the confidence level of female students enrolled in the targeted technician preparation programs;
• Increase the gender equity awareness of 530 college instructors and 450 in-service high school teachers/counselors; and
• Increase the understanding of and competence in problem-based learning of 530 college instructors and 450 in-service high school teachers/counselors.

SENIOR PERSONNEL:
• Pamela Silvers, Principal Investigator
• James Sullivan, Co-Principal Investigator
• Steven Marcus, Co-Principal Investigator
• Rachael Tipton, Co-Principal Investigator

OTHER COLLABORATORS:
• College Liaisons (One at each partner college)
• Support Offices at A-B Tech and Partner Colleges
• Contacts with Public School Systems in A-B Tech and Partner Colleges’ Service Areas
• NC Community College System Office
• Business & Industry Supporters
• External Evaluator

Community College Partners:
• Blue Ridge Community College (NC)
• Haywood Community College (NC)
• Northeast State Community College (TN)
• Southwestern Community College (NC)
• Tri-County Community College (NC)
• Virginia Highlands Community College (VA)

NUMBERS SERVED (36 months):
• Undergraduate Students: 1575
• Pre-College Students: 1500
• College Faculty: 530
• Pre-College Faculty: 450
Closing Thoughts

• Get Support – The ATE Community is amazing
• Have passion for what you do
• Go for it
Thank you for attending

Want more information

. . . let me know . . .

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